

50-1944

The New Sumner and Monroe Playground

12-23-44

Brooklyn Tribune - N.Y., N.Y.

Is beautiful, Mayor La Guardia went to a lot of trouble, and the City was put to great expense, in obtaining the ground and erecting this playground the common thought of real estate men is that most Negro people, and their children are destructive, which is true. Just take a walk past Holy Trinity Church, and you will notice how the children have marked up the outside of the Church. We have seen children right in the presence of their mother deface, and/or chalk up and crayon up, buildings, and we spoke to the parent about it, just to be cursed out. It is true that a child of tender years is only a baby, and does not in one sense understand what he or she is doing, when they mark up buildings, etc. But the parent fully understands what the child is doing and that parent should correct that child, instead of cursing some one out whom speaks to the parent about the child's marking up.



pm
Exclusive

town's school tuition, down.

The drive by white parents of Hillburn, N. Y., 25 miles from New York City, to make the only public elementary virtually a Jim-Crow institution shows signs of bogging

Then 68 of the 69 white pupils who had attended Main School transferred to the private school of which the Rev. Robert Jones rector of the Hillburn Presbyterian Chrch, is headmaster, and to the Sacred Heart parochial school, in nearby Suffern.

The old Brook School, closed as

The school was ordered opened to all the town's children last October, after a bitter fight by Negro parents against segregation of their children in antiquated Brook School. That dilapidated building was ordered closed by Dr. George B. Stoddard, State Commissioner of Education.

The old Brook School, closed as not worth repair when there were adequate facilities for both Negro and white pupils at Main School, now stands vacant and stripped of its toilet facilities and light fixtures. Some of the 500 Negro families in Hillburn are urging that it be **Sept. 7, 1944** turned over to them for remodeling.

Yesterday Nina Stickles, the principal, reported 89 pupils registered for the Fall term, four of them white. During the Spring term, the school had only one white pupil.

Stoddard directed that Main School, across Route 17 from the old Brook School, admit all children, regardless of color. The district school board, headed by J. Edgar Davidson, superintendent of the Ramapo Ajax division of the American Brake Shoe Co., had sought to keep Brook School Jim Crow by gerrymandering the school district.

"We need recreational facilities desperately in Hillburn. The only meeting place the children have is a bridge over the brook."

Negro Play Day
Weekly Review
Tuxedo, August 31st
Birmingham, Ala.

The Park and Recreation Board announce its City-wide Negro Play Day and Swim Meet at Tuxedo.

edo Park (August 31, 10:30 A.M., to 9:30 P.M. Here are the events: Relay Races, Sock Races, Baseball Throw, Softball Throw, Volley Ball Throw, Rope Jumping, Singing Games, Croquet, Quiet Games, Horseshoes, Sand Modeling, Folk Dances, Stunts, Free Play, Paddle Tennis, Ping Pong, Volley Ball Games. (All Parks), Softball Games and Swim Meet. *8-26-44*

Leaders in charge: John Belton Jones, Slossfield Center; Elmer Harris of Memorial Park. Odessa Harris Memorial Park; Marion Jackson, of Smithfield Court Center. Rosa Lee Blackledge of Pratt City Park, also H. Cornes and J. Jones.

Swimming Pool
Weekly Review
Now Open
Birmingham, Ala.

Birmingham placed itself on the path of the peacemakers in Negro public recreation with the dedication Saturday of the Tuxedo Park swimming pool.

City President Cooper Green, Commissioner Jimmy Morgan, Louis Pizitz, Erskine Ramsey, Park Board President James A. Downey, Jr., and J. C. DeHoll, director of the Birmingham Housing Authority were among those speaking in the white group of the program.

"This is not only a step, but a good mile in race relations," declared Mr. Green. Weight of his words were taken to mean that a better distribution of the benefits of democracy begets better race relations. 8-26-44

Mr. Green paid tribute to Board Members Charlie Harris and Mrs. C. J. Sharpe who fought untiringly for a swimming pool and other recreational opportunities for the Negro citizens. Silent prayer in recognition of the deceased C. L. Bailey of the board was invoked.

Mr. Pizitz, one of the great philanthropists of the city contrasted the friendly attitude of the present commission to the indifferent consideration of the City Commission dominated by the late Jimmy Jones, who was known to hold reservations on all projects of benefit to Negroes.

Going further, Mr. Pizitz established the point convincingly that "you are entitled to have this" and then drove home the point that Negroes need at least four more

such projects as Tuxedo in Birmingham. He was accompanied by his wife, son and daughter. Stressing his approaching 80th birthday on September 24, Mr. Ramsey sought to show that Birmingham was a good place to live and that his happiest contribution was to the swimming project. He is one of Birmingham's outstanding industrialist and humanitarians.

Mr. Harris, a park board member, indicated that the dedication marked the beginning of "planned recreation for Negroes in Birmingham." He estimated that the whites had been exposed to "planned recreation" in the city for 25 years.

He warned the Negro citizens that "the way you receive and use this one will determine other appropriations for Negro recreation."

Mr. Downey presided, presented the park to Negro citizens with Editor Durr and Prof. E. J. Oliver receiving it on behalf of these citizens.

Rev. W. D. Hargrove intoned prayer in memory of W. L. McAlpine, deceased civic leader who served on the Tuxedo Swimming Pool committee.

Headed by K. Mark Cowan, superintendent, the entire Park Board staff, white and black were presented. Civic leaders and the members of the swimming pool committee were also presented.

Tom Briskey, supervisor of Negro recreation, was praised by Mr. Downey for his excellent work in that capacity. 8-26-44

Approximately 18 firms were listed as donors to the project.

Publisher Victor Hansen of the News-Age Herald, Mr. Pizitz and Mr. Ramsey each gave around \$5,000. Other individuals who preferred to remain anonymous. No tickets were accepted from Negroes, which included refusal of a \$1,000 offer by Parker High School, Mr. Downey said.

The dedication brought the number of Negro city-owned Negro parks and centers to seven. This is the first time in the history of the city of Birmingham, it is claimed, the city has actually owned any Negro parks and playgrounds.

Editor Durr observed that all these parks had been achieved under the administration of Mayor Green.

Sonny Blount's orchestra furnished music. The hearers went into a frenzy when the orchestra whipped up "Tuxedo Junction," a song immortalized by Birmingham's Erskine Hawkins and his orchestra.

When the ceremony was over the gathering toured the pool on inspection. Boys vied to see who would be the first to christen the pool with a dive.

Will Burnett of 1776 Avenue M., Ensley was the first James Herring, a sailor stationed at Corpus Christi, Texas, was second and Earnest Park, of 1853 18th St., Ensley was third.

Soon the pool was nearly filled with boys. Shy girls looked on apparently without the courage to take a splash.

A. L. Welch is said to have turned the water on late last Friday night.

Park Named For Wm. McAlpine

Weekly Review - Birmingham
Birmingham Park and Recreation Board at a call session in the City Hall today, unanimously voted to \$13,000 will be required for necessary converted into a municipal swimming pool for Negroes.

The park will be named after the late William McAlpine, whom Park Board President James A. Downey said had been a friend to both whites and Negroes.

Mr. Downey said he was pleased over the deal because until now no provision had been made for Negroes to have park swimming facilities.

The park property consists of a swimming pool 50 by 100 feet and ground covering 36 lots. It is estimated that approximately \$13,000 will be required for necessary repairs. Work will be started as soon as possible, Mr. Downey said.

This image shows a blank, aged, cream-colored page, likely an endpaper or flyleaf of a book. The paper has a slightly textured appearance with some faint smudges and discoloration, characteristic of old paper. On the right edge, there is a dark binding strip with visible stitching or staples. The overall tone is warm and slightly off-white.

City Officials, Negro Leaders To Dedicate Tuxedo Park Sat.

Daily World - Atlanta, Ga.

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — (SNS) — City officials and prime Negro civic leaders will join hands at 2 p. m., Saturday in a dedicatory program officially naming the Tuxedo park swimming pool.

City Commission President Eugene Green, Commissioner Connor and Commissioner Jirany Morgan are slated to appear.

Tom M. Briske, supervisor of Negro Recreation, will introduce Park Board President James A. Downey, Jr., who in turn will introduce the members of the City Commission.

Likewise, member of the Park and Recreation Board and the Tuxedo Park Swimming Pool Committee will be introduced.

Mr. Downey will present the swimming pool to the Negro citizens of Birmingham with Bishop B. G. Shaw accepting on behalf of the Negro citizens.

A band concert and flag-raising by the Boy Scouts at 1:30 p. m. are preliminary features to the main program. **8-30-44**

Rev. J. W. Goodgame, pastor of the Sixth Avenue Baptist Church will pronounce the innovation and benediction.

Federal Government Spends Millions Of Dollars For Recreation Plans For Negroes

Age - New York, N.Y.
8-26-44
WASHINGTON, D. C. —The Federal Government has expended more than \$3,000,000 through the Office of Community War Services in assisting 166 community-planned recreation programs for Negroes since 1941, James W. Geater, recreation specialist of the OCWS told the State Recreation Conference and Workshop for Negroes at Tugaloo College, Jackson, Miss., last week.

Under a program of mutual assistance, Mr. Geater said, 79 community recreation buildings have been constructed or renovated and staffed and programmed for Negroes.

"Under this program," the speaker said, "186 communities have drawn Negro personnel into their community planning program. These representatives serve either on the authoritative overall committee or are members of a functional committee. Through this representation and active participation, Negro responsibility is enlisted which contributes to community well-being. **8-26-44**

"The USO is functioning in 288 war-affected communities. In some of these communities, no organized recreation existed for Negroes prior to the war. In the communities where municipal authorities had failed to provide financial assistance for the development of the Negro program, the Emergency War Service not only provided recreation and programs of leisure time for the in-migrant population, but brought enriching leisure time experience to the permanent population also.

"Under the War Public Service

Projects, numbering approximately 100, services for Negroes are included in the original applications. These supplemental funds provide for rent, leadership and program. Added to all these communities are many others which, without funds from USO or government, are expanding their own municipal or private agency program to accommodate the needs of Negroes. Programs in most cases are conducted for youth as well as adults. Although the participation in the activities program usually follow the general community practice, there is indication that increasingly the programs in centers used and staffed by Negroes compare favorably with other programs conducted in the same community," Mr. Geater added. **8-26-44**

The Mississippi Workshop for Negroes is the third recreation conference in which the OCWS Recreation Division has shared the sponsorship. The first was held in Florida under the State Defense Council. The second conference and workshop was held in North Carolina, under the State Recreation Committee and the University of North Carolina. Through this workshop plans were laid to re-survey recreational opportunities for Negroes; to set up training courses in the Negro colleges of the State; and to work towards obtaining necessary funds to provide qualified professional leadership for every community program. A similar conference is being planned for the State of Georgia.

"Recreation will play an important part in the post-war period," Mr. Geater said in conclusion, "and

communities building upon the gains that have been made in this field will provide a wider scope of opportunity for leisure time, more facilities accessible to more people, better leadership, fuller participation by all age-groups and all members of the population."

Harlem gets 6 1/2-acre playground

9-26-44
NEW YORK—On six-and-a-half acres that 7 months ago were cluttered with dilapidated buildings, one of this city's largest playgrounds was given to Harlem last week at Lenox avenue between 143rd and 145th streets, practically adjacent to the Harlem River.

Asphalt-surfaced and containing swings, chutes, teeter boards, basketball courts and other facilities for diversion, the playground has been named in honor of Col. Charles Young, Negro officer who was graduated from West Point and served in the Spanish-American War, the Philippine Insurrection and the World War.

Some conveniences for the park will await post-war construction. Fencing is lacking for the large playfield and construction of a recreation house with handstand will have to wait until after the war. With its deficiencies, however, it is Harlem's first large area for safe and supervised play.

Commissioner Moses, chairman of the ceremonies, said that post-war completion of the park will see the placing of the planned Harlem River Drive, a parkway, alongside the playground. **9-25-44**

Mr. Moses also spoke of two housing projects that are slated for construction after the war, the Abraham Lincoln Houses, a \$7,000,000 housing group to be located at Park and Fifth avenues, 132nd and 135th streets, and the James Weldon Johnson Houses, an \$8,000,000 project to be built at Park and Third avenues and 112th street. Mr. Moses said he hoped the new general hospital for Harlem, estimated to cost \$5,500,000 would be built immediately adjoining the Johnson Houses.

Harold M. Lewis, a consulting engineer for Borough President Nathan, promised that "this is the beginning of a new era for this section of Harlem". Many more important improvements are com-

ing, he said, including attractive gardens and recreation areas.

Walter White, secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, called upon residents of Harlem to make their own contribution toward helping the community out of its "dilemma". **9-25-44**

"Harlem has a community problem of no mean proportions", he said. Gangs of boys and girls are "making life miserable" for the law-abiding populace.

Public Park in S.C. Capital Has Jim-Crow Benches

7-29-44
Here is a photo of one of four benches in the park surrounding the State Capitol in the center of the city of Columbia, S.C. Believe it or not, the public square in the center of this State Capital is not free to all citizens.

But thousands of Carolina boys who are marching off to war are not fighting in any jim-crow section of the front. That whole space opposite the enemy is "American section—no "colored section," or "white section." We get rid of jim-crow very quickly, when the bullets and shells come over. **7-29-44**

This picture should be labeled, "The shame of Columbia, S.C." Have you jim-crow signs in your city that are a disgrace to our democracy? If so, send the AFRO a photo and let us print it.



'Where Else Is There for Us To Go?'

Constitution - Atlanta
We understand that a Chamber of Commerce committee has before it a plan which would, if adopted, urge the city to establish two adequate playgrounds and recreational parks for Negroes.

The Atlanta Constitution hopes, and urges, that this will be done. The Negroes are almost entirely without park facilities. There are, for instance, about 15,500 Negro school children. Thousands of them are in the neighborhood of Booker T. Washington school. Teachers and Sunday school teachers who urged the children to stay off the street corners and out of undesirable localities, are asked the question, "Where else is there for us to go?" **10-30-44**

The awkward and uncomfortable truth is that there isn't any other place for them to go. There are many reasons for establishing and equipping parks in the areas where the need is greatest. The first reason is that it is right and proper and the need is there. The second reason is that juvenile problems would decrease. It has

been shown that even a vacant lot where children can play reduces juvenile delinquency problems in a neighborhood. Parks would reduce municipal costs.

We hope the committee will recommend the parks and that the city will proceed immediately to construct them. The question of the school children replying, "Where else is there for us to go?" is too much for Atlanta to keep on its conscience.

Looking At Washington Park

Daily World-Atlanta Ga. 1-19-44
As a means of combatting juvenile delinquency in Atlanta, some 60 odd civic organizations, through Parks Manager George Simons, requested City Council Monday night to consider increasing the number of playgrounds from 30 to 40. Of the \$63,000 appropriated by Council for this purpose, \$6,000 was voted for a pavilion out at Washington Park, one of the two parks maintained by the City for its Negro children.

Besides the other items enumerated in the \$12,669,000 budget for 1944, Council listed provision of \$250,000 for post-war improvements; \$25,000 for X-ray equipment at Grady hospital; \$30,000 for X-ray equipment at Steiner clinic and \$30,000 for widening Memorial Drive.

Of course, in itself, the \$6,000 figure for a pavilion at the Park is a story representing a long and difficult struggle by colored Atlantans to bring the accommodations at the park to a place whereby it would be safe for children to play. But a broader look will show that it is far from adequate to cope with the situation which threatens our children's health and safety.

Dr. J. W. Nicholson, Professor at Gammon Theological Seminary and Chairman of the Program Committee of the Atlanta NAACP, drew a graphic picture of the Negro in Atlanta on the occasion of the Emancipation Day celebration here January 1. 1-19-44

In part, he says: "35 out of every 100 persons are Negroes. 75 out of every 100 persons with venereal diseases are Negroes. 50 out of every 100 juvenile delinquents are Negroes. 41 out of every 53 homicides are Negroes. 2 out of 88 parks are for Negroes. 0 out of 5 golf courses is for Negroes. 1 out of 6 swimming pools is for Negroes. 6 out of 91 tennis courts are for Negroes. 1 out of 14 baseball diamonds is for Negroes."

And while the \$6,000 appropriation will come as a much needed and long overdue service to our citizens, one needs only to study the comparative figures presented above through the courtesy of Dr. Nicholson to understand how inadequate such a figure is to meet the needs of our people, based upon population percentages.

COLORED RECREATION PARK MEETING NEEDS

January 8, 1944
PROJECT NOW PROVIDING
FULL RECREATION FACILITIES FOR NEGROES.

The county colored recreation park, located on the old Coastal Highway, north of Arco, at the site of the old Selden Institute, is providing unequalled recreation facilities for the colored people of Brunswick and Glynn county. Located on a beautiful site facing Turtle river marsh, the recreation facilities have been expanded by the County Commissioners to provide a swimming pool, a club room

and community building, a dance pavilion, tennis courts, picnic area and playground area, as well as a football and baseball field. Dances are held regularly at the pavilion and the club room and community building is provided with pool table, current magazines and books and facilities for the different indoor games. The tennis courts, which were recently surfaced with asphalt, are used by the local colored tennis club and other colored players. The swimming pool is equipped with a chlorinator and the two wells that provide the water are being given increased efficiency through installation of a power pump.

With the heavy influx of colored workers in connection with the shipyard and the colored troops coming to the Brunswick area for recreation, the normal requirements for recreation facilities for

the colored troops in the Brunswick area have been greatly increased. That the need has fully been met is indicated by the figures showing that for the last half year of 1943 the number of persons using these facilities is as follows:

Swimming Pool	13,196
Club Room	8,173
Dance Pavilion	22,799
Playground Area	18,369
Tennis Courts	72
Picnic Area	72

Total 62,681
In addition to the normal operating budget provided by the Glynn County Commissioners, funds under the Lanham Act have been allocated and it is hoped to continue the accelerated operation for the duration of the present emergency. At this time in addition to the superintendent and labor normally assigned to the park, a colored recreation supervisor and hostess are provided.

The recreation facilities are considered by interested authorities to have been a real aid in reducing absenteeism and in increasing efficiency among the colored workers in this section.

Playground for Negroes Sought

Delegation Before City Commission

A delegation representing the colored division of the St. Lucie County Defense council and other interests appeared before the city commission Monday night and requested the establishment of a playground park in the colored section, pointing to its great need to take youngsters off the streets and provide recreational facilities. Rev. H. F. Brockington served as spokesman for the delegation, whose request was backed by the presence of representatives of the main county council and the Interracial commission.

Brockington requested the city to designate as a park a group of lots at 16th street and Avenue F which he said the city owned, fill in the property as required, landscape it, provide playground equipment and construct a pavilion with toilets and band stand.

It developed, however, that there was a question as to whether the city has title to the property mentioned. Commissioners unanimously expressed approval of the

proposal to establish a park in the colored section, and instructed the city attorney to look into the status of the property mentioned and also to ascertain if other property might be available for park purposes.

Later, the commissioners engaged in another discussion of the housing situation here when the matter was brought up by Carl Williams, county Defense council

chairman. Acuteness of the situation and other phases were discussed but no action was taken. At the preceding meeting the commission had instructed the city manager to see if anything could be done toward procuring prefabricated houses or house trailers.

Payment of \$49.48 of the St. Lucie County Welfare association's bill in the amount of \$349.48 was ordered, the balance being payable by the county.

JUDGES ENDORSE NEGRO CITY PARK

New Orleans (La.) Times-Picayune

(Special to The Times-Picayune)
Alexandria, La., March 13.—Judges Cleveland Dear and J. W. Hawthorn of the Ninth Judicial District Monday jointly endorsed a Negro city park for Alexandria. Recently a fund of more than \$19,000 was raised for the project by white and Negro citizens. The judges' joint statement said:

"As juvenile judges we come in contact daily with neglected and delinquent children, both white and Negro. The problem is growing and it is of great importance to the entire community. The children of today will be our citizens of tomorrow, responsible for the welfare of our community and the government under which posterity will live.

"Wholesome recreational centers and playgrounds are essential needs of every community for both white and Negro children, and especially in a city of the size and population of Alexandria. Citizens of both races in this area have, by a commendable community effort, provided funds for the acquisition of a park and playgrounds for the Negro children of this city. This in itself is a recognition of the urgent need of this facility by all classes of our citizens. March 14, 1944

"We desire to express our wholehearted approval of this community spirit, and to indulge the hope that the commission council of this city will recognize as very worth while the desire of our progressive citizenship who have provided the grounds, by improving and developing them for the betterment of the Negro children of this city and community."

Planning For Parks

The Birmingham that is to be must have more parks. The city does not measure up to the minimum standards for park and playground facilities. Consequently the suggestion of the Birmingham Planning Board to the Birmingham Park and Recreation Board that postwar planning in the community include 17 projects for enlargement of the city's recreational facilities is a definite point in the right direction. Birmingham, Ala. Age-Herald

The National Recreation Association sets up as a standard at least one acre of playground for each 800 of a city's population. A neighborhood playground should be within at least a half mile of any resident and within at least a quarter of a mile of a thickly populated section. In addition to that, there should be a playfield, of 12 to 20 acres, for each 20,000 of a city's population. No home should be more than a mile from a playfield. The association also urges an indoor recreation center for each 20,000 of population, a swimming pool for each 50,000 of population or less, a gymnasium for each 10,000 of population, and various other standards.

Birmingham does not measure up to these standards. In the matter of community recreation centers it has six buildings where it should have 15. It has five swimming pools for white residents and none for Negroes, where it should have at least five for whites and three for Negroes. Thousands of the city's residents live more than a mile from even a community playground, and several miles from a playground center. If the city's golf courses are eliminated, Birmingham falls far short of the average of an acre of playground for each 800 of population.

The better city of tomorrow certainly must look to improvement of its recreational facilities. There will be more leisure after the war, if the pre-war trend is resumed, and it will be an obligation of the city to provide wholesome and constructive and healthful ways in which that leisure can be used. Consequently, while the city plans better streets, a public museum, an art gallery, a new city hall and other improvements, it cannot overlook its parks and playgrounds.

Columbia, S. C., Record
January 19, 1944

Council To Study Negro

Following an appeal from representatives of the Interracial Commission of the county for a suitable park for Negroes, Mayor Mitchell, Dr. Francis W. Bradley, and Dr. D. Marshall at City Council the Rev. Dr. James W. Jackson, Others attending them for the committee understood that the

Park Plan

equipment was not obtainable at present, but that it was desirable to have the proper site prepared for the time when the necessary equipment could be bought.

Doctor Bradley, in explaining the purpose of the group's appearance at Council, said that they realized that some provision is made for Negro parks but that the present facilities were considered inadequate for the need.

"The one location we have in mind would be where a large percentage of Negroes are and is at a price we think is reasonable," Doctor Bradley said.

Mr. Herbert, the chief spokesman for the group today, said that they were appearing at Council with a view of getting about five acres in the Waverly section which they think is well located for a colored park.

"We think it is advantageous at this time to purchase the property," Mr. Herbert said. "We've got a fine lot of Negro citizens as you find any where in the country. They are not desirous simply of furthering their own ends. They are desirous of furthering their government and their country."

"You know this matter of race hatred and race prejudice—why it is put into human breasts, I don't know. I don't believe the Nazis could have gotten that power without fostering hatred against the Jews."

"We know prominent politicians who stir up race hatred to further their own aims. There was a very prominent man in public life who made a vigorous statement on this subject and it was regarded as the evidence that he intended to run for a certain office."

Hard To Face

Continuing about the situation, Mr. Herbert said, "It's a hard thing to face. It's the hardest work that I've ever done. You are faced with such things that make you say, 'Oh, well others are not exerting themselves, and our efforts seem futile.'"

He said that he had worked with the Negroes on the hospital project and had never received such gratitude as from them.

"But when I go home and the telephone rings, I never know if I'll be told that I'm a good public-serving person or a Negro-loving so-and-so," he said.

He said that the Association for the Advancement of the Colored People often adopted policies that they considered too radical and that a lot of the local Negro leaders were just as conservative as white citizens.

"If we don't give them anything, how long will the good leaders hold the leadership of their race?" he asked.

"We feel that a public park at this time will be most helpful," he added.

He said that he felt there were numbers of white people who favored the work done by the committee but who did not take an active part.

Doctor Jackson said he felt that one of the inspiring aspects of the committee was that men of such ability, who are so busy these days, are giving their time to such an important work.

Negroes Back Play Centers

The Old Howard community center and Allen-Benedict court each month come an average of 6,660 Negro civilians to assist in the entertainment of soldiers of their race, under auspices of the Columbia Recreation program.

Located on the 800 block of Hampton street, the Old Howard center offers an auditorium, kitchen, reading room, dutch-oven and picnic ground. It is operated six days a week from 3 until 11 p.m. January 16, 1944

At the Allen-Benedict court, 2100 Laurel street, the auditorium is open on the same schedule as above. This is headquarters, too, for transporting girls to Fort Jackson and the Columbia Army Air base to dances and parties. About 600 of these young women go to the military posts monthly.

Whist tournaments, bridge games, ping-pong, checkers, bingo and dancing are enjoyed at the two centers, where 15,240 soldiers annually visit. Supervisors place 100 soldiers in Columbia homes each month, and send an average of 75 men to near-by towns and communities for home hospitality days.

In December directors were able to secure 100 homes here for soldiers' wives on week-end visits and 50 homes for soldiers with week-end passes.

Anna Mae Dickson, supervisor, reports that St. Ann's daily schedule of activities is as follows: School with an enrollment of 25 children, volley ball, basketball, softball, ping-pong, talent hour and story hour.

Popular all over the city, the playground is visited by about 75 children daily. During the summer months out-door movies

Marshall For It

Mayor Marshall voiced approval of an appropriation for the park and appointed the committee to work on the problem.

Mr. Perry told of the property the committee had in mind for a park.

Mr. Herbert said that he understood that only 10 per cent of the facilities were considered inadequate for the need.

Mr. Marshall said, "as mayor of the city of Columbia, I greatly admire your work. It takes a lot of nerve to take this criticism. They've just as much entitled to the park as others."

Councilman Farr then said that it was a project that is well worth consideration and made the motion for a committee to study the possibility.

Councilman Mays told the committee representatives that he is in complete sympathy with their work and would favor their being successful in their task.

Plea Made to Council for Negro Park

Columbia, S. C., State January 20, 1944

An earnest plea for investment of \$15,000 by the city of Columbia in a park for Negroes was made yesterday at council meeting by Dean Francis W. Bradley, R. Beverly Herbert, the Rev. James W. Jackson and William M. Perry.

Mayor Fred D. Marshall appointed Councilmen Fred L. Mays and James S. (Capp) Farr, Sr., to investigate the matter and find out what can be done toward securing a suitable site, with a view toward, at least, making an initial payment on a lot.

Columbia Negroes now receive approximately 20 per cent of the city's annual appropriation for recreation and about 10 per cent of the federal Lanham act funds. The amount available under the Lanham act is regulated by the ratio of Negro to white soldiers stationed at Fort Jackson and the Columbia Army Air base, W. H. Harth, director of the City Recreation program, explained. More funds will be made available to Negroes here as the soldier population of this race increases at the military posts. The city, itself, through council, can earmark as much of its own recreation funds as it wishes for use at parks and playgrounds, however.

"It's our duty to do something concrete for good race relationships between Negroes and whites," Mr. Herbert declared. "Our Negro leaders here, many of them just as conservative as we are, don't agree with the more radical ideas put forth by the Association for the Advancement of Colored People, but if we continue to slam the door in their faces, it is doubtful whether these men and women will continue to hold the leadership of their race for long. If, on the other hand they can say, 'We do have white friends' you can see the difference it will make."

Doctor Jackson pointed out that "the recreational program helps reduce juvenile delinquency, which costs the city more than would the maintenance of proper parks and centers. Many people favor such a program, but do not wish to work actively for its accomplishment."

"We have some fine Negro citizens in this city," Mayor Marshall

were held once a week for 200, said after the delegation had been heard, "and we owe them consideration and help. I know they're ground sponsored a vacation entitled to this park in Columbia, Bible school in the summer for 75 boys and girls. The total year-you gentlemen to secure it. Although no playground equipment can be purchased for the duration of the war, we may be able to find a lot and make the down payment on it. I congratulate your committee on its work. It's a delicate, difficult job, and you deserve immeasurable praise for your stand and for your efforts."

Councilman Lott Lawson asked third reading for the city license ordinance for 1944, which he is in charge of preparing. The only revision offered in addition to those reported last week in The State regarding filling stations, pawnshops and petroleum dealers was a raise in the price of licenses for peanut venders and shoe shine boys. The rate formerly was \$1, which will be increased now to \$5, with the provision that such licenses will be required to be approved by the Columbia police department. The ordinance passed the reading by a unanimous vote. Councilman Gary Paschal was absent from the meeting.

At the proposal of Councilman Mays, it was decided to remove two parking meters each from the front of the local theaters, in order that cars and trucks can unload there and drive on. No parking of any kind will be permitted. This move had the endorsement of the fire department, whose chief, A. McC. Marsh, said that parking in front of theaters is a "definite fire hazard" and has already been outlawed in this city.

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Columbia, S. C., State January 20, 1944

An earnest plea for investment of \$15,000 by the city of Columbia in a park for Negroes was made yesterday at council meeting by Dean Francis W. Bradley, R. Beverly Herbert, the Rev. James W. Jackson and William M. Perry.

Mayor Fred D. Marshall appointed Councilmen Fred L. Mays and James S. (Capp) Farr, Sr., to investigate the matter and find out what can be done toward securing a suitable site, with a view toward, at least, making an initial payment on a lot.

Columbia Negroes now receive approximately 20 per cent of the city's annual appropriation for recreation and about 10 per cent of the federal Lanham act funds. The amount available under the Lanham act is regulated by the ratio of Negro to white soldiers stationed at Fort Jackson and the Columbia Army Air base, W. H. Harth, director of the City Recreation program, explained. More funds will be made available to Negroes here as the soldier population of this race increases at the military posts. The city, itself, through council, can earmark as much of its own recreation funds as it wishes for use at parks and playgrounds, however.

"It's our duty to do something concrete for good race relationships between Negroes and whites," Mr. Herbert declared. "Our Negro leaders here, many of them just as conservative as we are, don't agree with the more radical ideas put forth by the Association for the Advancement of Colored People, but if we continue to slam the door in their faces, it is doubtful whether these men and women will continue to hold the leadership of their race for long. If, on the other hand they can say, 'We do have white friends' you can see the difference it will make."

Doctor Jackson pointed out that "the recreational program helps reduce juvenile delinquency, which costs the city more than would the maintenance of proper parks and centers. Many people favor such a program, but do not wish to work actively for its accomplishment."

"We have some fine Negro citizens in this city," Mayor Marshall

service from Columbia be erected in some suitable location. The amendment was adopted.

The property to be used for the park included Maxcy Gregg Park, bounded on the north by Blossom street, on the South by Park Circle, on the west by Pickens street, and on the east by the Southern Railroad.

Mayor Marshall said that he thought the plan would be an excellent idea. He said that the financial plans would have to be formulated later because landscaping the property had been proposed before and found to be very expensive.

Upon the recommendation of Councilmen James S. Farr, Sr., and Mr. Mays that a permanent committee be appointed to investigate the possibility of establishing a suitable park for the Negro children, Mayor Fred D. Marshall appointed them to be the committee.

Negroes Seek Park

Representatives of the Committee on Inter-racial relationships in Richland county had asked for a city appropriation of \$15,000 for purchasing property in Waverly Councilmen Farr and Mays, upon investigating with other members of council, decided that the location would not be suitable for the purpose of establishing a park and the price would be excessive.

The cost of developing the property, the committee said, would be prohibitive on account of the very rough nature of the terrain.

Mrs. T. H. Jenkins appeared before council to seek payment of doctor's bills incurred from an injured ankle in 1938. At the time of the accident the city had paid \$26 but it has developed that doctor's services for the injury have been required since then. The matter was referred to the city attorney and city engineer with power to act.

Council voted to contribute \$25 for a state-wide safety conference here March 21-22 at the Jefferson Hotel. The request was made by Cooper Edwards, safety engineer of the South Carolina Industrial Commission.

Council agreed upon the transfer of a taxi license to E. W. Bass. Council refused to compensate E. M. Cain, former employee of the city electrical department for two and a half years, for vacations he said he should have had and did not. He said that he worked for the city from July 15, 1940 to March 22, 1943 and had only one vacation. Mr. Mays said that it was reported to him that he had been out at Christmas times twice.

Council took under advisement a request from J. T. W. Mims, of Clinton, president of the Palmetto State Teachers Association, for \$500 for the annual meeting April 6-7.

The transfer of a taxi license from C. B. Lorrick to George Surratt was approved by Council with provision that the proper approval be secured from the police and license departments.

The tax penalty for Jacob Rivkins was abated by Council today when he appeared and said that the taxes had not been paid because he was sick.

Willie Bell, an employee at the Jefferson Hotel, appeared before council and protested against a fine he had to pay when his wife brought two policemen to his home to arrest him. He was given \$10 of

City Approves Plan For Maxcy Gregg Park

Columbia, S. C., Record

A proposal for landscaping Maxcy Gregg property into a memorial park as a tribute to Columbia men and women now in the armed services was endorsed by Columbia City Council today upon the recommendation of Councilman Fred I. Mays.

Saying that the property had all the essential features of a park site, with a sloping hillside as background, a clear stream running through it and a level frontage on the broad paved thoroughfare, Mr. Mays explained that by his plan the garden clubs in the city would be asked to cooperate.

The Dogwood Garden Club, through its president, Mrs. Richard L. Burnett, has unanimously endorsed the proposal, becoming the first organization to offer its services toward establishing the memorial.

Plaque Is Proposed

As an amendment to the motion of Mr. Mays, Councilman Lott Lawson proposed that a plaque in honor of the men and women in

names be withheld, toward a fund for a new swimming pool to be established at Tuxedo Park for Negroes. The money in the proposed plan now being studied by the commission for establishment of the 1800 swim center. Cost of the project for use some time next week. Officials of the Park and Recreation Board were informed Tuesday by

Commission Accepts \$1800 For Negro Pool

The money in the proposed plan now being studied by the commission for establishment of the 1800 swim center. Cost of the project for use some time next week. Officials of the Park and Recreation Board were informed Tuesday by

The City Commission today unanimously accepted gifts of \$1800 from donors, who asked that their

names be withheld, toward a fund for a new swimming pool to be established at Tuxedo Park for Negroes. The money in the proposed plan now being studied by the commission for establishment of the 1800 swim center. Cost of the project for use some time next week. Officials of the Park and Recreation Board were informed Tuesday by

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MORGAN BLAKE

Many Playgrounds for Both Races Here

RECENTLY THIS column reported a speech made at the Rotary Club in which the speaker deplored the lack of adequate playground facilities for the youth of our city, especially the Negro youth. In justice to the Parks Department, headed by my old friend, George Simons, and the recreational work in charge of Miss Virginia Carmichael, I asked for a statement from them on the matter and it shows clearly the fine work being done in playground and recreational activities in Atlanta: Atlanta, Ga. Journal.

"At present we have twenty white and ten Negro playgrounds in operation. In the near future an addition of five playgrounds for white people will be opened. These areas are located in the City Parks and on the Atlanta Public School grounds. The hours of operation are from 12:30 to 7:00 P. M. on week days and 8:30 to 12:30 noon on Saturdays. Of course these hours vary with the seasons of the year.

"The number of playgrounds, both white and colored, are always figured in proportion to the population of the city. Atlanta's Negro population being approximately one-third, you can see that on the basis of ten Negro playgrounds and twenty-five white playgrounds, the Negroes have more playgrounds according to population than the white people and also for your information the 1944 budget for municipal recreation in Atlanta is \$63,000.

"All of the playgrounds are fully equipped with excellent stationary apparatus and carefully selected game equipment, such as, balls and bats, paddles, nets, horseshoes, etc.

"The program offered at the various playgrounds is as follows: Activities for all age groups, that is, from the very small child to an adult of any age. The type of activities are games of high and low organization, music, arts and crafts, dancing, story telling and many other recreational activities.

"A well-rounded municipal recreation program must provide for all types of activities and in addition to the playground programs already mentioned many other phases of recreation are offered by this department, such as, community centers, organized athletics in which softball, sandlot baseball, football, basketball and other sports are organized. Also, special programs, such as, kite contests, paddle tennis tournaments and play days are conducted."

It is my purpose when good weather sets in and we have some of those fine warm days we had last February to go on a tour of the city parks with George Simons and see the children of both races in these playgrounds. There is no more conscientious and efficient public official in Atlanta than

George Simons. He and I worked together at The Journal for many years and I trained him well.

When a man can be program chairman of a civic club for nine consecutive years, no further proof is needed of his robustness and ruggedness. After completing just one year of such service I was whipped down to a nub and very happy to relinquish the reins. Visiting a doctor for a check-up shortly thereafter, he weighed me on the office scales and discovered I had lost 10 pounds since last in his office, which was about a year ago. And when a man of my feeble skinny physique loses 10 pounds it's quite noticeable.

But T. F. Peirce, of Los Angeles, president of Optimist International, who was visiting the local club in Atlanta Tuesday, was for nine straight years program chairman for his local club, meaning that he had to supply a speaker each week, 52 speakers per year and 468 in nine years. And in introducing the speakers at civic club you are supposed to use at least one wise crack per speaker, and not to repeat a wisecrack too frequently.

So I say when a man is rugged enough and versatile enough to do that for nine straight years and remain so popular with his local club that it will present him as a candidate for international president, that guy has got plenty on the ball and assuredly has earned his high promotion. And after meeting President Peirce and listening to him talk before the luncheon group and informally, one could understand why he is so beloved and deserving of the honor that came to him.

We local Optimists were hopeful for a bright sunny day in Atlanta in which to welcome our distinguished guest who hails from a state where it is reported the sun shines constantly except under unusual climatic conditions, which have occurred quite frequently this winter and spring, I understand. But Atlanta's climate misbehaved scandalously Tuesday and our faces were covered with bushes.

Since last July President Peirce has been devoting most of his time to visiting the many Optimist clubs in the United States and Canada. He thrilled us with an account of the great work these clubs are doing for the underprivileged boy. He is a big man with a heart as big as his body and even in the brief fellowship with him he was an inspiration and a challenge to his Atlanta clubmates, and made us mighty proud that such a man was our president.

The Negro Park
Age-Herald, Birmingham, Ala.

Birmingham marked up another milestone of progress and justice this week when the Birmingham Park and Recreation Board completed arrangements for the purchase of the Tuxedo

Park property for a municipal park and swimming pool for Negroes. The board, however, must share credit with Louis Pizitz and Erskine Ramsay, who contributed \$5,000 each of the purchase price, and with the City Commission, which put up the remaining \$3,500. 4-7-44

The Negroes of the city, constituting one-third of the city's population, will thus not be without public swimming facilities when Summer comes and the city opens up its four swimming pools for white persons. A definite extension of community privileges of that sort will go far toward cementing good relations between the races. It is putting into action the attitudes of cooperation and understanding which must underlie all sound relationships.

A Negro Swimming Pool

It is to be hoped that the City Commission will be able soon to complete successfully negotiations for the purchase of the Tuxedo Park property as a site for a Negro recreation center. 3-24-44

The city owes to its Negro population a park and public swimming pool. It operates four such pools for white people, but none for Negroes although Negroes constitute approximately one-third of the city's population.

The swimming pool is needed for the Summer season. Many Negroes in service visit Birmingham. In the Summer one of their first inquiries is about a swimming pool. Heretofore, the Negro USO has had to tell them there was none for Negroes. The situation tends to give the city a bad reputation. And it is not just. 3-24-44

Proper recreation facilities demonstrably reduce delinquency and crime. On purely selfish grounds the city cannot afford not to provide such facilities for its Negro population as rapidly as circumstances permit.

A Park For Negroes

The City Commission and the Park Board did a wise thing when they closed a deal this week for the purchase of the Tuxedo Park property to be used as a recreation center for Negroes. The property, which includes a spacious swimming pool, will be renamed in honor of William McAlpine, a Negro who before his death recently was active in seeking to have the city acquire the park for the use to which it will now be put. 4-7-44

A number of other Southern cities have long had recreation centers for their colored citizens, and it is fitting that Birmingham, with so large a Negro population, should also provide such a facility.

The whole community is grateful to Erskine Ramsay and Louis Pizitz for their generous gifts toward purchase of the park.

CITY PURCHASES

NEGRO PARK SITE

Age-Herald, Birmingham, Ala.

A contract for purchase of the Tuxedo Park property located at Tuxedo Junction for use of Negroes has been negotiated between the property owners and the Birmingham Park and Recreation Board for a price of \$13,500, it was announced at a special called meeting of the board Wednesday. 4-6-44

The owners originally requested \$15,000 for the Tuxedo Park property which contains 36 lots and has a 50 by 100 feet swimming pool, but on a compromise offer by the Park and Recreation Board later agreed to accept \$13,500 with the understanding that a city lien for \$1,200 for sewer assessments would not affect the lower purchase price.

Of the purchase price \$5,000 was donated by Erskine Ramsay and another \$5,000 contributed by Louis Pizitz. The City Commission at a recent meeting voted unanimously to increase its appropriation to the Park Board by an additional \$3,500 to take care of the remaining \$3,500 needed for the purchase price.

It was decided by the Park and Recreation Board that when the park is dedicated as city property it will be named in honor of William McAlpine, a Negro civic leader who, before his recent death, was an active member of a Negro committee to have the city acquire the park property. 4-6-44

Mayor Cooper Green said Wednesday following announcement of purchase of the park by the board he had written the board Tuesday of the \$1,200 in old WPA assessments against the property.

Eugene Connor, associate city commissioner, said he would insist the \$1,200 be paid, either by the board or by the sellers of the property to satisfy the assessments due.

Mayor Green and James A. Downey, Jr., park board chairman, said "the \$1,200 in assessments, if demanded by Mr. Connor, will be paid even if we have to raise the money dollar by dollar among the Negroes." Mayor Green, however, said there are numerous cases where the city in acquiring property through purchase for civic purposes, such as parks, had waived city improvement assessments.

\$10,000 Given Toward Negro Swimming Pool

Donations of \$5,000 each by two Birmingham philanthropists announced Tuesday bring the project of a swimming pool for Birmingham's Negro residents within immediate possibility. 3-28-44

The announcement was made Tuesday by James A. Downey, Jr.,

area director of the War Manpower Commission, who is heading the move for a Negro swimming pool as part of the wartime physical fitness program of the nation. Erskine Ramsay and Louis Pizitz, Downey said, have pledged \$5,000 each toward the pool on solicitation of a committee of representative Negro citizens, and the \$10,000 makes possible the planning of a swimming pool to be opened by Summer. "Five thousand persons were immediately, and it is the start of a whole plan for the building of the City Commission to purchase the

recreational facilities for Birmingham's Negro citizens."

Mark A. McCloskey, of Washington, FSA director of community war services, has written Downey "Our field and regional recreation representatives stand ready to recommend approval for these priorities as soon as the application is processed."

The Negro swimming pool committee includes E. Paul Jones, Robert Durr, H. D. Coke, Emory O. Jackson, S. L. Gilliard, S. J. Bennett, A. G. Gaston, W. H. Hollins, Louie Burnham, A. L. Welch, the Rev. J. C. Perry, Mrs. A. H. Parker, L. K. Shivers and the late William McAlpine. He before his recent death took an active part in the committee's work.

NO SWIMMING FOR NEGROES

To the Editor of The News:
NEWS-BIRMINGHAM, Ala.
Mayor Cooper Green has proclaimed June 26 to July 1 as "Swim for Health Week." He declared that cooperation in the activity means cooperation with the physical fitness program of the nation. 6-22-44

It is unfortunate that Negro citizens of Birmingham as well as hundreds of Negro soldiers who journey to the city from nearby camps will not be able to participate in "Swim for Health Week." Although the Tuxedo Park swimming pool has been purchased by the city for Negro citizens, to date there has been no announcement of the opening.

If it is true, as the Park and Recreation Board indicates, that one must receive priorities to purchase materials necessary to make the pool usable, surely a swimming pool for Negro citizens should receive first consideration as a project important to the war program of the nation.

This summer has already seen the death from drowning of a number of Negro youth in the unsafe, unguarded and hazardous mudholes around the city. The immediate opening of Tuxedo Park swimming pool would prevent such drownings and advance the development of a strong and healthy citizenry.

ESTHER V. COOPER,

Executive Secretary, Southern Negro Youth Congress.

Still No Negro Pool

News-Birmingham, Ala.

In the Voice of the People column on this page today there is an appeal that the Negro swimming pool at Tuxedo Park be opened as soon as possible in view of the hot weather. 6-22-44

It is an appeal to which earnest attention should be given. Although the City Commission and the Park and Recreation Board have purchased the swimming pool in order that the Negroes of the city may have at least one public pool, the full fruit of that action will not come until the pool is open.

Delays are to be expected, of course, in view of the shortages of material with which to repair the pool and put it into operation. Nor is it desirable to put through a makeshift job. Nevertheless, the responsible city authorities should remember the great need for this facility and do everything feasible to expedite its opening.

City Council

To Get Report On Negro Park

City council instructed the committee seeking to purchase acreage for a Negro park in the city to report next week for "final disposition" after council discussed future expenditures and plans drawn up by the committee during the morning session yesterday.

Mayor Fred D. Marshall said that if the purchase price were lowered to \$10,000, he would recommend that council act to buy the property next Wednesday. The committee was also told that a 10-foot entrance would have to be provided if the city closed the sale.

The 10-acre lot is located in the vicinity of Elmwood avenue and the Southern railway near the Seegars place. Council conducted investigations of the property during the week. 7-6-44

City council held first and second readings yesterday on a petition by the Southern railway for the erection and maintenance of a side track extending across Assembly and Tobacco streets to Park street.

Third reading of the petition, which was filed at city clerk's office June 21, was placed on council agenda for next Wednesday. The side track will connect two portions of side track already laid and will be placed adjacent to the present side track. Frank Tompkins, division counsel for Southern railway, instigated the action.

C. F. Bedenbaugh appeared before council with a request for \$1,000 from the city for a recreation center proposed by the Charles T. Girardeau post 641 Veterans of Foreign Wars. The matter was taken under advisement.

Arthur Pompey, representative of Columbia Negro Elks, lodge 342, was granted \$37.50 by council for the convention being held by the group in Columbia July 18 and 19.

In a report to council concerning the Dixie Watermelon garden, Dr. G. G. Caughman, city health officer, said that "as far as our inspection is concerned, the garden has complied with the law. We are now seeking action on the injunction held against the city."

Council recommended that the case be turned over to City Attorney Paul Cooper after L. A. Krell, property owner complained that Harry Taggs, owner of the garden, permitted sour watermelon juice to accumulate on the premises.

City Engineer W. S. Tomlinson was instructed to take action on the paving on Maple street following statements by three residents that the present situation was "very inconvenient" and damaging to their automobiles. 7-6-44

Council approved a taxi license transfer from T. J. McNinch to George W. Outlaw.

More Funds for Negro Recreation Center Granted

Appropriating \$2,885 more for a Negro recreation center than was originally set aside, the amount to be matched by the government, the city commission, in its meeting held Tuesday night, let a contract to R. J. Edgerly of Albany, for \$25,435 for the construction of the building. 6-16-44

The action of the commission followed a discussion in which commissioners expressed the wish to erect a strong, durable building, since plans are on foot to use it as one wing of a proposed new Negro school after the war closes.

Mr. Edgerly's bid was the lowest offered in the recent opening of sealed proposals. The Spooner Construction Company of Tifton was the apparent low bidder with all alternate bids deducted, but the commission decided to spend more money than was originally earmarked for the project, and considered these two bids on the basis of their base offerings.

FWA Agrees to Match

City Manager C. Q. Wright had explained that \$19,800 was the original amount set aside by the city and the Federal Works Agency for construction of the center and said that FWA officials, to whom he talked Tuesday, agreed to match any other appropriations which might be made by the city.

Permission to conduct a ten revival was granted to P. H. Morgan, Negro Seventh Day Adventist minister, provided he can find a location suitable to the police committee. Applications by T. H. Gurr, Radium Springs Road treasurer of the Church of Christ and of Jimmie Mayo, Assembly of God, of Columbus, to conduct ten revivals at 502 Gordon street and either at Monroe Street and Residence Avenue or First Avenue and North Washington street, respectively, were referred to the police committee with power to act. 6-16-44

Some questions arose on the Gurr application if the revival would feature a white minister preaching to Negroes.

Commissioner M. B. Peacock speaking on tent revivals in general, said he had no objection whatsoever to bona fide religious services in tents, but that he did want to halt any attempt to make

a "racket" out of such services.

New Power Contract

Resolutions were adopted accepting a new contract with the Georgia Power Company to supply the city with electricity, with Mr. Wright explaining that the new contract, approved by the Water, Light & Gas Commission saves the city about \$4,000 a year and accepting a deed from K. B. Hodges and Richard Tift for an acre and a quarter stip of land recently purchased by the city for \$500.

Mayor W. B. Haley announced that Col. W. M. Wiler, member of the Albany Housing Authority, had been reappointed to a five-year term, subject to the governor's approval. 6-16-44

An application by the Animal Oddities Exhibit to show here executive director of post-war June 19-26 and exhibit "animals and unusual monkeys" was referred to the license committee with power to act.

"At-Home" Vacations

Letters were read from the Office of Defense Transportation, urging the city to endorse a "stay-at-home" vacation movement; from Ruby M. Worcester, corresponding secretary of the Georgia Federation of Business and professional Women's clubs, thanking

the city for its hospitality at the recent convention here; and from Arthur Cheatham, director of the State Veterans Service, who gave a financial report of the Albany office's operation, since the city advances funds for the office.

Accounts totaling \$4,305.59 were read and ordered paid, and commission members were invited to the annual barbecue of the water, Light & Gas Commission July 4.

Resolution By Mayor Seeks Playground

**Council Asked To
Start Fund To
Purchase Property**

A combination playground and park for Atlanta Negroes is sought in a resolution Mayor William B. Harstfield expects to get city council to pass on. The Mayor made the

statement Wednesday.

Following approval of a council resolution authorizing the sale of Old State Street school property for \$4,500, he asked council in a letter to pass legislation which would state a fund for the purchase of Negro park and playground property. 7-20-44

Negro Bathing Beach Location Picked by Speer

After inspecting several possible sites for a proposed negro bathing beach, Alex Speer, city's executive director of post-war projects, said yesterday that he considered a portion of city-owned property on Boca Ciega bay in the Maximo Point area, as the best suited for this particular purpose.

Speer indicated that he will recommend this site to city council.

Speer said he would not favor formally dedicating the land as a permanent beach as the 300-acre tract may later be needed for some type of industrial expansion.

He said he would favor turning over a portion of the water-front property to a responsible group of negro citizens for use until such time as the property is required for some other purpose.

This group, Speer said, should be held responsible for policing the proposed beach area and keeping it in order. Clearing and other minor development of the beach also would be in charge of the negro group.

The area is sufficiently large, Speer says, to provide picnic grounds in connection with the beach.

Local negro leaders in recent conferences with Speer, said the greatest need of local negro communities is adequate beach facilities.

Miss Moton Returns To North Carolina

DURHAM, N. C.—Miss Charlotte Moton, recreation representative of the Federal Security Agency of Washington, returned to North Carolina this week to continue special work at the request of the state recreation commission. She will visit 17 North Carolina cities.

Her present itinerary will include Fayetteville, Charlotte, Greensboro, New Bern, Wilson, Rocky Mount, Kinston, Wilson, Wilmington, Durham, and Raleigh.

MUCH TO BE DONE
Miss Moton told reporters recently that six months on the Pacific coast, where she spent concentrated in large numbers. Much has to be done in combating the vicious anti-Negro propaganda accompanying shifts in the Negro population.

Newton Playground System Is Being Rounded Out For White And Colored

Newton, N.C. 7-4-44

Although it seems like wasted effort right now, those in charge of the playground program in Newton are continuing their work, and if the infantile praalysis epidemic subsides later in the summer the town will have an excellent recreational layout for the young people.

Friday this writer accompanied Rev. Roy Leinbach, chairman of the playground committee, on a tour of the three playgrounds—one at the negro school, one at the Newton Elementary school, and a third at the old CCC camp site, now the property of the New City Mill.

It is amazing what the playground committee members and the hired workers have done in developing this project during the summer thus far. To the uninitiated, the work might not appear so great, but to those who consider that the town has never had a playground program before it is a great deal, indeed.

Harry Lemon is playground director and his co-worker is L. E. Jarrett. Rev. S. B. McBrayer is in charge of the negro playground. They are the three workers on the payroll. 7-4-44

In the Snow Hill section, location for the negro project, the minister in charge, assisted by several youngsters who volunteer their help, is proceeding with the task of putting up see-saws and other apparatus that will bring joy to the colored kids when they can again use the facility. The playground will also have handwalkers, chinning bars, slides, swings, and a softball diamond, with a sandpile for the very young.

The town of Newton furnished machinery and labor for leveling the colored school lot, Rev. Mr. Leinbach stated.

At the elementary school, where enrollment for playground activities will be heaviest, there is a long row of swings, slides, see-saws, etc., that will be worked over in time when the town ban on attendance at playgrounds, because of fear of spreading polio, is lifted.

The New City Mill's offer to lend use of its CCC camp property for a North Newton playground was considered an excellent gesture, because the site offers the best in the system for a recreation program.

It is planned that tennis courts will be fixed at the North Newton facility, along with all the other features of the down town playground.

The playground chairman said special assistance has been given by Whenball Hosiery mill, Newton Rayon mill, Clyde Fabrics plant, the town of Newton, and Abernethy Hardware store through the donation of iron piping, labor, machinery, and other supplies, while many other plants offered assistance, but found they could not give piping because it had been gathered up in scrap drives.

The playground program is sponsored by the Community Chest, with some cash assistance from the town of Newton.

Council Thanked For Buying Land For Negro Park

Columbia, S.C. State 7-16-44

Mayor Marshall and city council were thanked for their part in the purchase of ten or more acres for play park for Negro children, by the Negro members of the Richland county interracial committee, according to a letter from James H. Hinton, secretary and treasurer.

The letter follows:

Hon. Fred D. Marshall, mayor, and members, of Columbia city council, city hall, Columbia.

Honorable gentlemen: The Negro members of the Richland county interracial committee, and members of our racial group in Columbia generally, are appreciative of the fine spirit that prompted you gentlemen to purchase the ten (10) or more acres of land for a "play park" for Negro citizens of Columbia. It was much needed and comes to us at a time when it can and will be used to a great advantage for wholesome recreation, especially to our children.

We take this opportunity to thank the white members of the interracial committee, namely, Dean F. Bradley, W. M. Perry, Sr., the Rev. J. W. Jackson and Mrs. J. R. Cain, assisted by R. Beverly Herbert,

and others who not only appeared before city council, but worked untiringly for the success of this project. The Negro members of the committee are Mary Saxon, Dr. D. K. Jennings and the Rev. L. C. Jenkins. The success of this effort will strengthen race relations in the City of Columbia and Richland county.

Very truly yours,
JAMES M. HINTON,
Secretary-Treasurer Richland County Interracial Committee.

Council Buys \$10,000 Tract For Negro Park

Columbia, S.C. Record 7-12-44

The purchase of property on Elmwood avenue, formerly owned by the Seagars estate, for a Negro park at \$10,000 was authorized today by City Council.

The property includes slightly more than 10 acres with provision for an entrance way.

The city agreed to pay \$5,000 cash and the other \$5,000 on or before March 1, 1945 with no interest. It was also reported that no request for spending public funds for building up the park be made until the Negroes themselves had shown an inclination to prepare the property for use.

Mayor Fred D. Marshall thanked members of the Richland County Committee for the Advancement of Colored People for their unselfish interest and work to help the Negroes. 7-12-44

This expression of appreciation, upon the motion of Councilman James S. Farr, Sr., was incorporated into a resolution adopted unanimously by Council.

Dr. Francis W. Bradley, dean of the college of arts and sciences at the University of South Carolina, W. M. Perry, and The Rev. Dr. J. W. Jackson, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, were present and thanked Council for the purchase of the park site.

Councilman Farr and City License Inspector T. G. Talbert were instructed to investigate the type license that should be charged Yost's Ice Cream Company, on Harden street.

Council agreed to subscribe to an advertisement in the Garnet and Black, annual of the University of South Carolina, for \$45.

The tax penalty for late taxes was abated for E. O. DePass amounting to \$8.

NEGRO RECREATION PROGRAM WORKING

Augusta, Ga. Herald

The Charles T. Walker playground is working out a well-rounded recreational program for Negroes of Augusta.

W. T. Johnson is Negro recreational director. 5-28-44

In cooperation with J. W. Wallace, commissioner of the soft ball league, a successful soft ball season is under way. This week marks the ending of the first half of the season.

During this first half of the sea-

son, more than 10,000 fans, including soldiers and civilians, have attended the games. Registrations are about completed for the second half of the soft-ball season.

In addition to base ball, two tennis courts are being put into tip-top condition. Tournaments are being arranged for all groups, and top seeded players will meet various champions from the army camps. 5-28-44

The playground is also being equipped with slides, see-saws, sand boxes and other playground facilities for the younger children.

Council Votes To Purchase Negro Park

Columbia, S.C. State 7-13-44

City council voted yesterday to purchase a ten-acre tract of land on Elmwood avenue, formerly part of the old Seagars estate, for use as a Negro park.

Action followed a resolution introduced by Councilman Gary Paschal whereby the city agreed to purchase the property for \$10,000, paying \$5,000 cash and the remaining \$5,000 on or before March 1, 1945, with no interest.

The statement provided that no further expenditure of public funds should be made until such time as the property is put into use as a public park by the Negroes of the city. 7-13-44

A. B. Chitwood, contractor, appeared before council seeking to interest city officials in applying for a license for the Columbia canal plant which would give the city state's rights to the canal. Mr. Chitwood said that the land in question now belonged to the state of South Carolina which has had possession of the property since 1925 when the owning power company was relieved of the responsibility of completing the canal by the general assembly. The work has never been finished, he said.

Upon recommendation of Councilman Lester Bates, council instructed Mr. Chitwood to present his facts, background material and suggestions to Paul Cooper, city attorney.

License Inspector T. G. Talbert and Councilman J. S. Farr, Sr., were delegated by council to settle the issue of licensing Yost's Ice Cream company on Harden street.

Council also agreed to grant \$45 for an advertisement in The Garnet and Black, University of South Carolina annual.

E. O. DePass was relieved of tax penalties totaling \$8 for late taxes.

FUND APPROVED
Week 14 Review
FOR NEGRO UNIT
IN TUXEDO PARK
Columbia, S.C. 7-1-44

Plans by the City Park and Recreation Board to purchase Tuxedo Park, near Tuxedo Junction in Ensley, repair and remodel the pool and operate the park for the benefit of Negroes, received official approval Tuesday from the City Commission.

By unanimous vote the City Commission appropriated \$8,500 for the Park Board to supplement other Tuxedo Park Board funds, including donations of \$5,000 each by Erskine Ramsey and Louis Pizitz to be used in purchasing the park.



News-Examiner
July 29, 1944

NEW TUXEDO POOL TO OPEN—Negroes in the Birmingham area are being provided with one of the most modern Negro swimming pools in the South with the completion of work on the old pool at Tuxedo Park. An architect's drawing made by E. B. Van Keuren is shown above. The pool is scheduled to open around Aug. 1.

The action was taken on recommendation of the Park Board with the appropriation voted with the understanding that the Park Board would take steps shortly to decide on a price for the property.

***4-1-44**
TUXEDO PARK WHICH HAS a 50x100 feet swimming pool, in need of repair, consists of about 36 lots. The property owned by Joe Denaburg, Maurice Bishop, Dr. R. N. Kimbrough and G. C. Prowell.

The Park Board has offered \$12,000 for the property and the owners have requested \$15,000. The land, Mayor Green said, has been appraised at \$3,600 and engineers estimate cost of reconditioning the pool and installing pumps will range between \$9,000 and \$13,000. In the event the Park Board decides to purchase the property, Mr. Green said, the city has a priority to obtain pumping equipment.

Mayor Green estimated the pool could be repaired and the park reconditioned in time to open the pool at the beginning of the Summer swimming season.

The announcement of donations for the pool was made Tuesday by James M. Downey, Jr., area director of the War Manpower Commission and Park Board members who is heading the move for a Negro swimming pool as part of the war-time physical fitness program of the nation. **4-1-44**

Mr. Ramsey and Mr. Pizitz, Downey said, have pledged \$5,000 each toward the pool on solicitation of a committee of representative Negro citizens.

"Five thousand persons were taught how to swim during the Learn to Swim Week sponsored by the Warmanpower Commission in Birmingham last year."

City Gives Another Negro Playground

**Louisiana Weekly
New Orleans, La.
7-22-44**
It is apparent that if New Orleans is to be considered a progressive city, the powers that be must make plans for the improvement of the whole community.

Another step was made in that direction when the city gave or granted to the Sixteenth Ward the Square bounded by Lowerline, Alvin Callendar, Pitt and Prytania Streets, to be used as a playground and recreational center for Negro children. This plot is to be equipped with a baseball diamond and other recreational facilities.

City Moves Toward Adequate Negro Recreational Facilities

**News - Birmingham, Ala.
7-23-44**
As a step forward in providing adequate recreational facilities for the thousands of Negroes in the Birmingham district, the Birmingham Park and Recreation Board announced this week the opening Aug. 1 of a modern, centrally-located swimming pool and grounds at Tuxedo Junction.

James M. Downey, head of the Park Board, said the city has long hoped to provide more adequate facilities for the Negroes in the city and he added that the new facilities are expected to go a long way toward relieving the situation. Built to accommodate 1,000 persons a day, the pool was modernized from an old pool built in the 20s and since then operated from time to time. **7-23-44**

"THE MOST MODERN EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES are being installed in the swimming pool bathhouse," Mr. Downey said. "The bathhouse is constructed of buff utility tile with concrete floors and roof, and the control room, facing south, has been placed in a setting of large shade trees. Connected with the western end is the women's locker room with adjoining showers. To the east of the central control room is the men's locker room. Swimmers will enter the swimming pool through a central grassy area, with appropriate planting, making the shady pool a picturesque site."

"The filter house, constructed adjacent to the pool contains modern filtering equipment," Mr. Downey continued "and the equipment has been designed to accommodate an additional pool of corresponding size which the city hopes to build as soon as the money and materials become available." **7-23-44**

"THE LOCATION OF TUXEDO PARK IS IDEAL," Mr. Downey said. "It is near enough to the main arteries of travel to be accessible to the many thousands of Negroes in the Birmingham area. The park is already serving as a playground for the people of the Ensley area and indications are that it will become one of the most popular spots in the city for Negroes desiring good picnic and recreational programs."

Mr. Downey said it is hoped the pool will be ready to open Aug. 1.

E. B. Van Keuren, architect, has said that the most modern filtering equipment has been provided and added that the pool will have the means to treat the water every eight hours as well as recirculated.

Launch Harlem Playground

**Daily Worker
New York, N.Y.**

Mayor LaGuardia and Park Commissioner Moses will be among speakers at the dedication ceremonies at 3 o'clock this afternoon. The playground, built at an estimated cost of \$1,000,000, reaches from 143d to 145th Sts. on Lenox Ave.

Councilman Benjamin J. Davis, Jr., who introduced a bill to name the playground for the late Col. Charles Young, highest ranking Negro officer when the United States entered the first world war, said yesterday that Mayor LaGuardia and Commissioner Moses, by immediately agreeing on the name, made passage of his measure unnecessary. The name was first proposed by William Faulkner, commander of the Col. Charles Young Post, American Legion. **9-16-44**

Dedication ceremonies will be under the auspices of the Park Department.

Speakers, in addition to LaGuardia, Moses and Davis, will include Negro and white community leaders.

Harlem Gets Big New Playground Reclaimed From 6 1/2 Acres of Slum

**Times - New York, N.Y.
9-17-44**
On a six-and-a-half-acre site that seven months ago was cluttered with dilapidated garages, small commercial buildings and tenements, one of the largest playgrounds in the city was opened yesterday in Harlem at Lenox Avenue between 143d and 145th Streets, with only coal bunkers between it and the Harlem River. Commissioner Moses, as chairman of the ceremonies, said the playground is typical of the city's policy of placing play areas along parkways. In this instance the playground was built before the Harlem River Drive, a post-war capital project. The city wants parkways to benefit not only those who own automobiles but also the people of the adjoining sections who are not fortunate enough to own cars, he said. **9-17-44**

Mr. Moses also spoke of the two housing projects that are slated for post-war construction — Abraham Lincoln Houses, a 67,000,000 housing group to be located at Park and Fifth Avenues, 132d and 135th Streets, and James Weldon Johnson Houses, an \$8,000,000 project to be built at Park and Third Avenues and 112th Street. Mr. Moses said he hoped the new general hospital for Harlem, estimated to cost \$5,500,000, would be built immediately adjoining the Johnson Houses. He said that Manhattan Borough President Edgar J. Nathan Jr. was ready to build the Harlem River Drive "as soon as

the large playfield within the playground and construction of a recreation house with bandstand will have to wait until after the war. But meanwhile there is a large area for supervised and safe play where none existed before in a heavily populated district. Two thousand fathers, mothers, youths and children from the congested neighborhood came for the opening, watched with sparkling eyes a parade, applauded when city officials and Negro leaders spoke of other improvements to come and the social importance of the playground, and remained to play ball on its new asphalt surface, to use its swings, chutes and teeter boards and to toss basketballs. The playground, named in honor of Col. Charles Young, a Negro officer who was graduated from West Point, served in the Spanish-American War, the Philippine Insurrection and the World War and was buried in Arlington National Cemetery, was built now because Mayor La Guardia and Park Commissioner Robert Moses were able to obtain priorities for sufficient materials. Fencing is lacking for

the embargoes are lifted."

Harold M. Lewis, consulting engineer for Borough President Nathan, said "this is the beginning of a new era for this section of Harlem." Many more important improvements are coming, he said, including attractive gardens and recreation areas in the drive area. The drive will also have new facilities for commerce, he said.

White Tells of Big Problems

Walter White, secretary of the National Association for Advancement of the Colored People, and Councilman Benjamin J. Davis Jr., while praising Commissioner Moses and Mayor La Guardia for the improvements they were giving to Harlem, called upon the residents of Harlem to make their contributions toward helping Harlem out of its "dilemma." **9-17-44**

Mr. White, introduced by Mr. Moses as "one of our most useful and distinguished citizens," said that Harlem has a "community problem of no mean proportions." Gangs of boys and girls were reported to be "making life miserable" for the law-abiding populace of the district, he said.

"One reason is lack of proper play space," he continued. "But we also need better housing and more jobs. I am glad that Mr. Davis and others realize that we in Harlem must also do something to help get us out of our dilemma. We are thankful to Mayor La Guardia and Mr. Moses for this playground and other improvements, but we are going to need their help in the days to come, too."

"Because we may have to face a terrible situation after the war in getting jobs. The Government has told of drastic cuts in war jobs that will be made as soon as Hitler is defeated, in airplane factories and shipyards, where there are large numbers of Negro workers."

"We must face the prospect of being first fired because we were the last hired. We must also face the fact that fascist organizations are already working to create ill feeling toward Negroes, Jews and other minority groups."

"We may win the war in a military sense but lose it in a spiritual sense unless these divisive forces are properly dealt with."

Davis Lauds Negro Fighting Men

Councilman Davis said the playground was one of the most important steps taken to "help us solve our problems in Harlem."

Naming the playground for Colonel Young was a great tribute, he said, "to our black boys who are fighting against fascism and discrimination all over the world, and to all soldiers, regardless of color, who are fighting for the same cause." **9-17-44**

He commended the Mayor and Commissioner Moses for recognizing the "needs of our locality and

giving us playgrounds where our little kids can play in safety as their parents go more at ease in their minds to their jobs in war factories." Interested witnesses of the ceremony were Mayor Theodore R. McKeldin and twelve Councilmen and officials of Baltimore. They had been touring the city's parkways with Mr. Moses, who is making the formal opening of the 369th Regiment Armory at Fifth and 142d Street to the and other war service organizations. One of the bands was the Susie F. Frazer Cadets Drum Corps, stepped along.